



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 5424**

February Session, 2018



**AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN CANDIDATES FOR THE OFFICE OF REGISTRAR OF VOTERS AT REGULAR ELECTIONS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 9-258 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) For municipalities with more than one voting district, the  
4 election officials of each polling place shall be electors of the state and  
5 shall consist of (1) one moderator, (2) at least one [,] but not more than  
6 two official checkers, (3) two assistant registrars of voters of opposite  
7 political parties, each of whom shall be residents of the town, (4) not  
8 more than two challengers if the registrars of voters have appointed  
9 challengers pursuant to section 9-232, [and] (5) at least one [and] but  
10 not more than two ballot clerks, and (6) at least one but not more than  
11 two voting tabulator tenders for each voting tabulator in use at the  
12 polling place. A known candidate for any office shall not serve as an  
13 election official on election day or serve at the polls in any capacity,  
14 except that (A) a municipal clerk or a registrar of voters, who is a  
15 candidate for the same office, may perform his or her official duties,  
16 and (B) a deputy registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the office of  
17 registrar of voters, may perform his or her official duties. If, in the  
18 opinion of the registrar of voters, the public convenience of the electors  
19 in any voting district so requires, provision shall be made for an

20 additional line or lines of electors at the polling place and, if more than  
21 one line of electors is established, at least one but not more than two  
22 additional official checkers and at least one but not more than two  
23 ballot clerks for each line of electors shall be appointed and, if more  
24 than one tabulator is used in a polling place, at least one [and] but not  
25 more than two additional voting tabulator tenders shall be appointed  
26 for each additional machine so used. Head moderators, central  
27 counting moderators and absentee ballot counters appointed pursuant  
28 to law shall also be deemed election officials.

29 (b) For municipalities with one voting district, the election officials  
30 of such polling place shall be electors of the state and shall consist of  
31 (1) one moderator, (2) at least one [,] but not more than two official  
32 checkers, (3) not more than two challengers if the registrars of voters  
33 have appointed challengers pursuant to section 9-232, (4) at least one  
34 [and] but not more than two voting tabulator tenders for each voting  
35 tabulator in use at the polling place, and (5) at least one but not more  
36 than two ballot clerks. Additionally, such election officials may consist  
37 of two registrars of voters of opposite political parties, or two assistant  
38 registrars of voters of opposite political parties, as the case may be,  
39 subject to the requirements of sections 9-259 and 9-439, provided if the  
40 registrars of voters are present in the polling place, they shall appoint  
41 at least one designee to be present in their office. A known candidate  
42 for any office shall not serve as an election official on election day or  
43 serve at the polls in any capacity, except that (A) a municipal clerk or a  
44 registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the same office, may perform  
45 his or her official duties, and (B) a deputy registrar of voters, who is a  
46 candidate for the office of registrar of voters, may perform his or her  
47 official duties. If, in the opinion of the registrar of voters, the public  
48 convenience of the electors in any voting district so requires, provision  
49 shall be made for an additional line or lines of electors at the polling  
50 place and, if more than one line of electors is established, at least one [,]  
51 but not more than two [,] additional official checkers for each line of  
52 electors shall be appointed and, if more than one tabulator is used in a  
53 polling place, at least one [and] but not more than two additional

54 voting tabulator tenders shall be appointed for each additional  
55 tabulator so used. Head moderators, central counting moderators and  
56 absentee ballot counters appointed pursuant to law shall be deemed to  
57 be election officials.

58 (c) No election official shall perform services for any party or  
59 candidate on election day nor appear at any political party  
60 headquarters prior to eight o'clock p.m. on election day.

61 Sec. 2. Subsection (c) of section 9-236 of the general statutes is  
62 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
63 *passage*):

64 (c) No person shall be allowed within any polling place for any  
65 purpose other than casting his or her vote, except (1) those permitted  
66 or exempt under this section or section 9-236a, [and] (2) primary [or  
67 election officials and party checkers appointed under section 9-235  
68 shall be allowed within any polling place except for the purpose of  
69 casting his vote] officials under section 9-436, (3) election officials  
70 under section 9-258, as amended by this act, including (A) a municipal  
71 clerk or registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the same office,  
72 performing his or her official duties, and (B) a deputy registrar of  
73 voters, who is a candidate for the office of registrar of voters,  
74 performing his or her official duties, or (4) party checkers under  
75 section 9-235. Representatives of the news media shall be allowed to  
76 enter, remain within and leave any polling place or restricted area  
77 surrounding any polling place to observe the election, provided any  
78 such representative who in any way interferes with the orderly process  
79 of voting shall be evicted by the moderator. A number of students in  
80 grades four to twelve, inclusive, not to exceed four at any one time in  
81 any one polling place, may enter any polling place between twelve  
82 o'clock noon and three o'clock p.m. for the purpose of observing the  
83 activities taking place in the polling place, provided there is proper  
84 parental or teacher supervision present, and provided further, any  
85 such student who in any way interferes with the orderly process of  
86 voting shall be evicted by the moderator. An elector may be

87 accompanied into any polling place by one or more children who are  
88 fifteen years of age or younger and supervised by the elector if the  
89 elector is the parent or legal guardian of such children.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	9-258
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	9-236(c)

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

Throughout Section 1, "at least one and not more" was changed to "at least one [and] but not more" for consistency and designators were added for clarity; and in Section 1(a), "section 9-232, and at" was changed to "section 9-232, [and] at" for clarity.

**GAE**      *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*